Governance of pharmacy practice

Learning outcome objectives

Upon successful completion of this lesson, you should be able to:
1. Describe the respective roles of the federal and provincial governments as they pertain to the practice of pharmacy.
2. Identify the two branches of Health Canada charged with the oversight of drug products and the respective Acts and associated Regulations that provide their direction.
3. Explain the differences between Acts, Regulations, Bylaws, Standards of Practice and Codes of Ethics.
4. Explain the prescription handling requirements for Schedule F drugs, controlled drugs, targeted control drugs and narcotics.
5. Describe the role and general responsibilities of the provincial pharmacy regulatory authorities.
6. Identify the initial licensing requirements for a pharmacist in most Canadian provinces.
7. Explain the national drug scheduling model describing the conditions of sale of over-the-counter drugs.
8. Identify other legislation applicable to pharmacy practice.

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Karen Wolfe graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Alberta in 1986. She completed a Masters of Business Administration from Athabasca University in 2005. She is a past president of the Alberta College of Pharmacists (2005-2006) and, most recently, the former executive director of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) (2007-2008).

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Linda Lytle, a graduate of the College of Pharmacy, University of Texas, served as registrar for the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia for 10 years, a position from which she retired in 2005. Prior to that, she served as the College’s communications coordinator and then deputy registrar. Linda is now a health regulatory consultant, holding the position of quality outcomes program consultant with the College. Nationally, Linda served two terms as chair of the NAPRA Council of Pharmacy Registrars (1999-2003) and as president, vice-president and treasurer of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy (2001-2004).